

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad comprising at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells, the cells having lengths extending linearly transversely along the pad and held in place on a pad base by retaining means, characterized in that the retaining means hold the lengths of the cells in tension across the pad.
2. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means are releasable.
3. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell, such that the length of each cell is bent.
4. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the lengths of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.
5. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 4 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of the length of each cell and fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell to the pad base.
6. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 2 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell, such that the length of each cell is bent.

7. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 6 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the lengths of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.
8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad as claimed in claim 7 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of the length of each cell and fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell to the pad base.
9. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The pressure pad of claim 1 wherein the lengths of the cells, as they extend transversely along the pad, are held in a bent state by the retaining means.
10. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** A pressure pad including:
- a. a pad base;
 - b. at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending across the pad base, wherein:
 - (1) cells are tensioned along their lengths both when inflated and deflated, the cells having a tensioned shape when tensioned; and
 - (2) when tension is released, the cells assume an untensioned shape different from the tensioned shape.
11. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein the cells are tensioned by fasteners extending from cells at the ends of their lengths.

12. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. each cell has a central portion spaced from the ends of its length, and
 - b. the central portion has a central axis offset from a linear axis extending between the ends.
13. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. each cell has a central portion spaced from the ends of its length;
 - b. the central portion is restrained to the pad base; and
 - c. the central portion is offset from an axis extending between the fasteners.
14. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 13 wherein the central portion is restrained to the pad base by a loop extending from the pad base about the central portion.
15. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. the cells have central axes extending between their opposing ends,
 - b. when the cells are tensioned, the central axes are bent into nonlinear shapes.

16. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A pressure pad including:
- a pad base;
 - at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending between opposing cell ends across the pad base;
 - loops extending about the cells and restraining the cells to the pad base, the loops being spaced from the cell ends; and
 - fasteners at the cell ends, the fasteners being affixed to ~~structure off of the pressure pad~~ the pad base, whereby the cells ~~and the pad base~~ are held to the structure pad base;
- wherein the loops and the fasteners urge the cells into nonlinear shapes between the loops and the fasteners.
17. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 16 wherein the cells are tensioned along their lengths between the loops and the fasteners.
18. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 17 wherein the loops extending about one of the cells have central axes which are offset from a linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell.
19. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 16 wherein the loops extending about one of the cells have central axes which are offset from a linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell, the offset extending in a direction oriented at least substantially perpendicularly to the linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell.
20. **(PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED)** The pressure pad of claim 19 wherein the cells are tensioned along their lengths.

21. (NEW) A pressure pad as claimed in claim 3 wherein the cells are adjacently arrayed such that the bent cells are interfit, with the bend of each cell receiving, and/or being received within, the bend of an adjacent cell.
22. (NEW) A pressure pad as claimed in claim 4 wherein the bends of the cells receive adjacent cells therein.
23. (NEW) A pressure pad including:
- a. a pad base;
 - b. at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending across the pad base, wherein the lengths of the cells are restrained:
 - (1) at or near the middles of their lengths, and
 - (2) at or near the ends of their lengths,to bend the lengths of the cells therebetween.
24. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 23 wherein:
- a. the sets of cells have their lengths adjacently arrayed, and
 - b. at least some of the cells have adjacent cells situated within their bends.